

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:551
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
STEPPING UP OF FOODCROPS PROCUREMENT
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to step up procurement of several foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise to be increased;
- (c) whether the State Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government to enhance the procurement of maize, jowar, ragi and paddy from that State; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S. N. SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : Under the present policy, Government procures foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications through FCI and State Government agencies under price support operations. The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State agencies at support prices, or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. No targets, as such are fixed for the procurement of foodgrains.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 (till 19.2.2001), 145498 tonnes of maize and 1003 tonnes of paddy have been procured by Food Corporation of India as against nil procurement during the corresponding period last Kharif Marketing Season.

As regards Jowar and Ragi, the Government of Karnataka proposes to procure these coarse grains under Decentralized Procurement Scheme.